4: Richter M, G-5 (ca. 1856-1870) 1870 AW5 Coorg AW5

137 314 [386] preserved in sugar. The Bastard Teak (Butea frondosa), though common, is a very beautiful tree when in flower. Its scarlet flowers dye cotton yellow, and from the bark when cut a gum "Palas-kino" is obtained. A fragrant resin called "Kundricum" is furnished by the Gugula-mara (Boswellia glabra) an erect tall tree covered with greenish ash-coloured bark.

On the table-land of Mercara the Kake-mara or the Coorg Laburnum (Cathartocarpus fistula) is particularly conspicuous in April and May by its beautiful long pendulous racemes of [278] yellow flowers. Its long cylindric legumes of dark brown colour and nearly 2 feet in length contain a mucilaginous pulp, which is a valuable laxative when mixed with Cassia. 137 245 On the same plateau is found the American Aloe (Agave Americana) with its high flower stem and long thick leaves, which might be turned into excellent fibre, but beyond a few experiments no manufacture is carried on. The plant serves for making fences only. It has been superseded, however, by the Lantana shrub (Lantana Aculeata), which within a few years has spread over the whole of Coorg. Its square stem and branches are prickly, its ovate leaves when bruised have a strong smell of black currants, and its orange coloured flowers are more or less in blossom throughout the year, and the shrub when kept within proper bounds makes an excellent fence. But this plant whose vitality is most obstinate, threatens to overrun many a tract of land in Coorg and elsewhere that might be far more profitably occupied. The recognised necessity of shading exposed coffee plantations has 137 314 brought to notice a tree, chiefly distinguished for its quick growth and shady crown—the *Charcoal tree* (Sponea Wightii) It springs up spontaneously on every new clearing after the burn and mostly so in the eastern districts. Its wood produces a fine charcoal and its bark an excellent fibre. For beauty of shape and foliage the solitary *Nela-mávina-mara*